

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

1. (Original) A device for measuring a hard granular object, comprising:

a measuring vessel having a first face, a second face parallel to the first face, and a space formed between the first and second faces for receiving hard granular object supplied from the first face side;

a holder located on the side of the first face, having a through hole communicable with the space, and slidable along the first face;

a shutter located on the side of the second face, having a through hole communicable with the space, and movable parallel to the second face; and

a pressing means for pressing the holder toward the measuring vessel.

2. (Original) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 1, wherein there is kept a designated gap between the second face and the shutter.

3. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the holder is pressed toward the measuring vessel with a force smaller than that required to crush the hard granular object.

4. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.

5. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein a part of the holder which slides on the measuring vessel is made of an acetal resin or polyether-ether-ketone.

6. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.

7. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the first face.

8. (Currently amended) The device for measuring a hard granular object of ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.

9. (Currently amended) A method for measuring a hard granular object comprising the steps of:

charging the space of the measuring vessel with a hard granular object to be measured from a holder of the measuring vessel according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1;

closing the openings of the space, in the first and second faces of the measuring vessel, filled with the hard granular object; and

discharging the hard granular object from the space of the measuring vessel.

10. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein the holder is pressed toward the measuring vessel with a force smaller than that required to crush the hard granular object.

11. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.

12. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 3, wherein a part of the first face which slides on the holder is made of an abrasion resistant material.
13. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein a part of the holder which slides on the measuring vessel is made of an acetal resin or polyether-ether-ketone.
14. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.
15. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 4, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.
16. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 11, wherein a part of the second face facing the shutter is made of an abrasion resistant material.
17. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the first face.
18. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 2, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.
19. (New) The device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 7, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.
20. (New) the device for measuring a hard granular object of Claim 17, wherein the space of the measuring vessel for receiving the hard granular object has an opening with its unchamfered edge in the second face.